

# Subgraph Epimorphisms: Theory and Application to Model Reductions in Systems Biology

François Fages

Joint work with Steven Gay (PhD Thesis) and Sylvain Soliman

LIFEWARE Team  
Inria Paris-Rocquencourt

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# Systems Biology

Biologists use diagrammatic notations. Kohn's map of cell cycle:

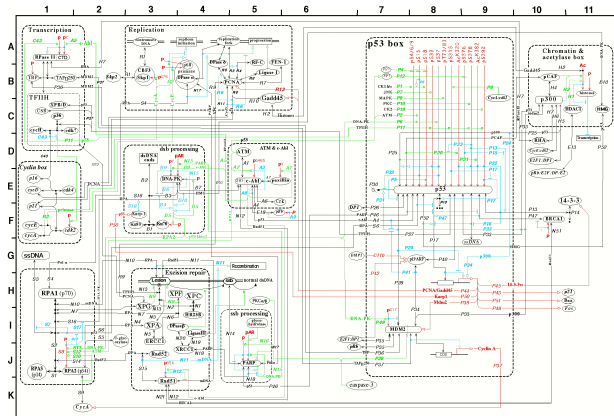



Figure 6B: The p53-Mdm2 and DNA repair regulatory network (version 2p - May 19, 1999)

Many formalisms have been developed to interpret them:  
ODE, CTMC, Petri nets, Reaction systems, Graph rewriting,  
Boolean networks, process algebra...

# Model Repositories, e.g. [biomodels.net](http://biomodels.net)

Systems Biology Markup Language (SBML):  
model exchange format (annotations, reactions, events,...)

 **BioModels Database**

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To view a model, simply click on the correspondent BioModels ID provided within the leftmost column of the row corresponding to the model.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 | All

BioModels ID	Name	Publication ID	Last Modified
<a href="#">BIOMD0000000001</a>	Edelstein1996 - EPSP ACh event	<a href="#">8983160</a>	2014-10-31T17:17:46+00:00
<a href="#">BIOMD0000000002</a>	Edelstein1996 - EPSP ACh species	<a href="#">8983160</a>	2014-04-01T17:42:27+00:00
<a href="#">BIOMD0000000003</a>	Goldbeter1991 - Min Mit Oscil	<a href="#">1833774</a>	2013-05-16T14:38:01+00:00
<a href="#">BIOMD0000000004</a>	Goldbeter1991 - Min Mit Oscil, Expl Inact	<a href="#">1833774</a>	2012-12-11T15:30:15+00:00
<a href="#">BIOMD0000000005</a>	Tyson1991 - Cell Cycle 6 var	<a href="#">1831270</a>	2013-05-16T14:40:43+00:00
<a href="#">BIOMD0000000006</a>	Tyson1991 - Cell Cycle 2 var	<a href="#">1831270</a>	2013-05-16T14:38:56+00:00
<a href="#">BIOMD0000000007</a>	Novak1997 - Cell Cycle	<a href="#">9256450</a>	2014-03-26T14:20:21+00:00
<a href="#">BIOMD0000000008</a>	Gardner1998 - Cell Cycle Goldbeter	<a href="#">9826676</a>	2014-07-24T10:59:34+00:00
<a href="#">BIOMD0000000009</a>	Huang1996 - Ultrasensitivity in MAPK cascade	<a href="#">8816754</a>	2014-12-09T14:51:26+00:00
<a href="#">BIOMD0000000010</a>	Kholodenko2000 - Ultrasensitivity and negative feedback bring oscillations in MAPK cascade	<a href="#">10712587</a>	2014-05-30T11:51:29+00:00

Flat list of models. . .

Models are annotated separately but not inter-related.

## BioModels data

Around 500 “curated” models, 1000 non-curated models.

“Curated” here means that the simulation figures in the reference article could be reproduced by simulating the ODEs.

No consistency condition on their writing in SBML .

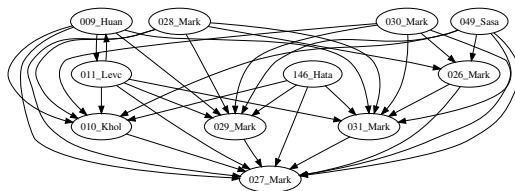
Number of species and reactions in some models of interest:

Family	#models	min	max	median
ca_oscil	11	6	44	12
circ	11	24	68	43
mapk	11	20	213	51
cell_cycle	9	7	334	43

# From Models to Metamodels

Organize model repositories in model hierarchies<sup>1</sup>:

- ▶ define model reductions by a purely structural notion of **subgraph epimorphism (SEPI)** on the **reaction graphs**
- ▶ automatically detect model reduction relationships by the existence of SEPI between each pair of models:



**Figure:** Hierarchy of MAPK signalling models in biomodels.net, computed by detection of SEPIs

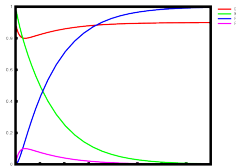
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<sup>1</sup>S. Gay F F S. Soliman. A Graphical Method for Reducing and Relating Models in Systems Biology, Bioinformatics 2010

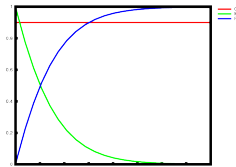
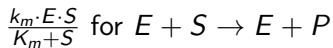
# Michaelis-Menten Reduction(s)

Reaction System = { chemical reactions equipped kinetics} :

Mass-action law kinetics



Michaelis-Menten kinetics

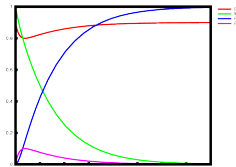


Reduction by projection on a subset of variables (S, P, E)  
**approximated kinetics: hard to justify and quantify the error**

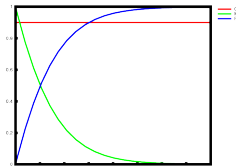
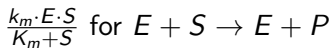
# Michaelis-Menten Reduction(s)

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Michaelis-Menten kinetics



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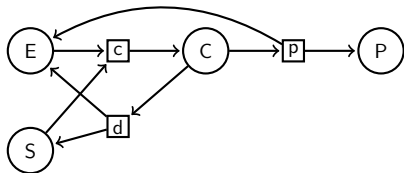
How hell to detect model reductions like that in Biomodels ???

# Ignore the Kinetics!

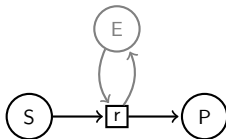
*“Si tu ne sais pas résoudre un problème supprime le problème” (proverbe japonais)*

Reaction Model = **Reaction Graph** + Kinetics.

Enzymatic mechanism



Michaelis-Menten reduction



Remark: the reduced graph is not isomorphic to a subgraph of the original graph (**no subgraph isomorphism**)

**Which graph reduction operations?**

**Which subgraph morphisms?**



# Outline

Motivation

Inferring Reaction Systems from ODEs

Subgraph Epimorphism Framework

Solving SEPI

SEPI Partial Order

Back to Kinetic Conditions with Tropical Algebra Methods

# Extracting Reaction Graphs from ODE models

*The language of ODEs is low-level (assembler)*

*The language of reactions is high-level (program)*

Many models in BioModels have been transcribed from ODE models with inconsistent reactions.

Extreme case of “curated” model 8: only synthesis reactions with positive and negative terms for the kinetics...

Meaningful reaction systems associated to ODE systems allow for stochastic simulation, Petri net and Boolean interpretations, ...

The ODE associated to a reaction system is trivial by CME.

What about the reverse? (load\_ode in BIOCHAM)

**Reaction systems associated to an ODE<sup>2</sup>?**

## Well-formed Reaction Systems

A reaction  $(r, m, p, f)$  over molecular species  $\{x_1, \dots, x_s\}$  is *well-formed* if the following conditions hold:

1.  $f(x_1, \dots, x_s)$  is a part. diff. function non-negative on  $\mathbb{R}_+^s$ ;
2.  $x_i \in r$  if and only if  $\partial f / \partial x_i(\vec{x}) > 0$  for some value  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}_+^s$ ;
3.  $x_i \in m$  if and only if  $\partial f / \partial x_i(\vec{x}) < 0$  for some value  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}_+^s$ .

# Well-formed Reaction Systems

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3.  $x_i \in m$  if and only if  $\partial f / \partial x_i(\vec{x}) < 0$  for some value  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}_+^s$ .

A reaction  $(r, m, p, f)$  is *strict* if  $f(x_1, \dots, x_s) = 0$  whenever  $x_j = 0$  for any  $x_j$  such that  $r(x_j) > 0$ .

## Proposition

*The ODE semantics of a well-formed and strict reaction system defines a positive system (i.e.  $\mathbb{R}_+^k$  is an invariant set).*

$\dot{x} = -k$  is not the ODE of any strict well-formed reaction system, but of the non-strict well-formed reactions  $x \xrightarrow{lx} 2x$  and  $x \xrightarrow{k+lx} \emptyset$

# Influence Graph of a Well-formed Reaction System

The *differential influence graph (DIG)* of a reaction system  $R$  is

$$\begin{aligned} & \{x_i \longrightarrow^+ x_j \mid \partial \dot{x}_j / \partial x_i(\vec{x}) > 0 \text{ for some value } \vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}_+^s\} \\ \cup & \{x_i \longrightarrow^- x_j \mid \partial \dot{x}_j / \partial x_i(\vec{x}) < 0 \text{ for some value } \vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}_+^s\} \end{aligned}$$

The *stoichiometric influence graph (SIG)* of  $R$  is

$$\begin{aligned} & \{x \longrightarrow^+ y \mid \text{either } p_i(y) - r_i(y) > 0, r_i(x) > 0, \\ & \quad \text{or } p_i(y) - r_i(y) < 0, m_i(x) > 0 \text{ for some reaction } i\} \\ \cup & \{x \longrightarrow^- y \mid \text{either } p_i(y) - r_i(y) < 0 \text{ and } r_i(x) > 0, \\ & \quad \text{or } p_i(y) - r_i(y) > 0, m_i(x) > 0 \text{ for some reaction } i\} \end{aligned}$$

## Theorem

For any well-formed reaction system  $R$ ,  $DIG(R) \subset SIG(R)^3$   
and if the  $SIG(R)$  has no conflict  $DIG(R) = SIG(R)^4$ .

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<sup>3</sup>F F, S. Soliman. From reaction models to influence models and back: a theorem. LNCS. FMSB 2008

<sup>4</sup>F F, S G Gay, S. Soliman. Inferring reaction systems from ODEs. TCS 2014

# Algorithm for Inferring Reactions from ODEs in $O(nt)$

input: ODE system  $O$  over variables for molecular concentrations,  
partial\_has\_pos\_val test

1. rewrite  $O$  into **additive normal form**
2. compute the set  $\mathcal{T}$  of all terms appearing in  $O$
3. let  $R := \emptyset$
4. **for each non-decomposable term  $t \in \mathcal{T}$  create  $(r,m,p,f)$** 
  - 4.1 let  $r := \emptyset$  ,  $p := \emptyset$  ,  $m := \emptyset$
  - 4.2 for each  $x$  where  $t$  occurs with integer coefficient  $c$  in  $\dot{x}$  in  $O$ ,
    - 4.2.1 if  $c < 0$  then  $r(x) := -c$ ,
    - 4.2.2 if  $c > 0$  then  $p(x) := c$ ,
  - 4.3 for each  $x$  such that  $r(x) = 0$  and partial\_has\_pos\_val( $t, x$ ),
    - 4.3.1  $r(x) := 1$ ,
    - 4.3.2  $p(x) := p(x) + 1$ ,
  - 4.4 for each variable  $x$  such that partial\_has\_pos\_val( $-t, x$ ),
    - 4.4.1  $m(x) := 1$ ,
  - 4.5  $R := R \cup \{r / m \xrightarrow{t} p\}$ ,

output: reaction system  $R$  (well-formed whenever possible)

# Inferring Ghost Molecules

Variables eliminated by linear invariants lead to factors of the form  $c - A - B \dots$  and non-positive systems (extra condition  $X_0 = c - A_0 - B_0$  on the initial state...)

**for each expression of the form**  $k - \sum_i x_i$  **in**  $O$   
where  $k$  is a numerical constant or a parameter  
and  $x_i$  are variables,

**introduce a new variable**  $z$  with time derivative  $\dot{z} = -\sum_i \dot{x}_i$ , and  
functional dependency equation  $z = k - \sum_i x_i$ ,

substitute any occurrence of  $k - \sum_i x_i$  in  $O$  by  $z$ ,

# Automatic SBML writing based on ODE semantics

`load_ode` used at Caltech for importing Matlab models in SBML.

at Montpellier for associating reaction systems to reduced ODEs obtained from tropical equilibrations ?

SBML reaction models can be automatically rewritten in SBML by `export_ODE`; `load_ODE`

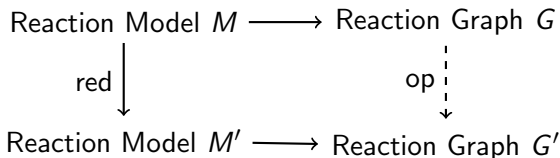
This **decreases the number of inconsistencies from 60% to 30%** in BioModels.net<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup>F F, S Gay, S. Soliman. Inferring reaction systems from ODEs. TCS 2014



# Graph Operations for Model Reduction



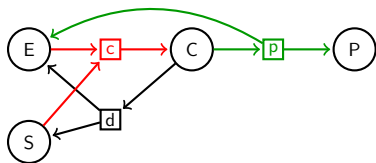
Kinetic considerations	Graph operations
Constant concentration,...	Species deletion
Slow rate,...	Reaction deletion
Proportional concentrations,...	Species merging
Proportional rates,...	Reaction merging

## Definition

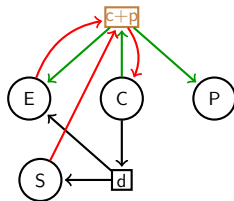
Graphical reduction from  $G$  to  $G'$  iff chain of delete and merge operations from  $G$  to  $G'$

(subgraph isomorphisms correspond to deletions only)

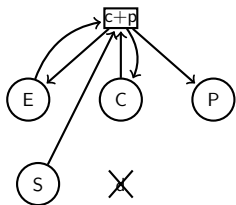
## Graph Operations: delete and merge



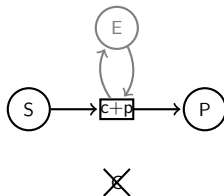
Merge c with p



Delete d



Delete C

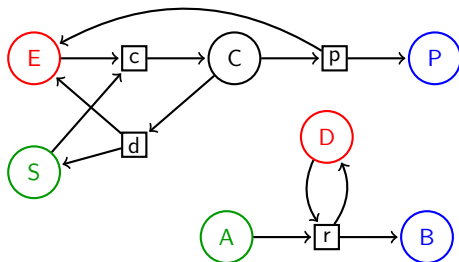
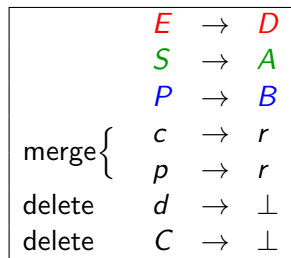


Reduced Michaelis-Menten

# Delete/Merge Chains = Subgraph Epimorphisms

Delete/merge chains have many commutation properties: bad for enumerating them.

Flattening the chains' order yields *subgraph epimorphisms*.



# Subgraph Epimorphisms (SEPI): Formal Definition

## Definition

A *subgraph epimorphism*  $\mu$  is a

- ▶ **Function**: from  $G = (V, A)$  to  $G' = (V', A')$
- ▶ **Subgraph**:  $\mu : V_0 \subseteq V \longrightarrow V'$  such that:
- ▶ **Morphism**:  $\forall (x, y) \in A \cap V_0 \times V_0, (\mu(x), \mu(y)) \in A'$
- ▶ **Epi**: surjective on the target graph
  - ▶ on nodes:  $\forall x' \in V', \exists x \in V, \mu(x) = x'$
  - ▶ on arcs:  $\forall (x', y') \in A', \exists (x, y) \in A, (\mu(x), \mu(y)) = (x', y')$

## Theorem

*There exists a graphical reduction from  $G$  to  $G'$  iff there exists a SEPI from  $G$  to  $G'$ .*

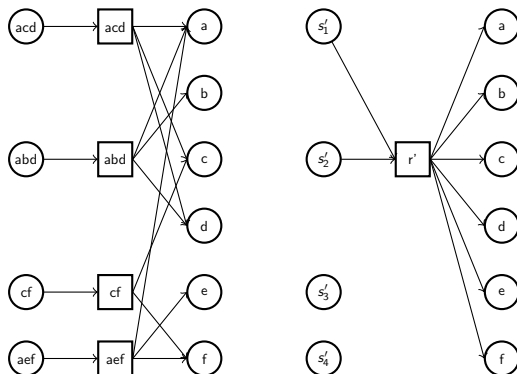
For *reaction graphs*, add  $\mu(S_0) \subseteq S'$  and  $\mu(R_0) \subseteq R'$  to prevent merging reactions with species.

# The SEPI existence problem is NP-Complete

## Theorem

*The problem of deciding if there is a subgraph epimorphism from  $G$  to  $G'$  is NP-complete<sup>6</sup>, even for reaction graphs.*

In the reaction graph case, proved by reduction of  $k$ -set-covering:



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<sup>6</sup>S. Gay F F T. Martinez S. Soliman C. Solnon, 2014 Discrete Applied Mathematics

# Solving SEPI Existence using CP and SAT

CP model characteristics:

- ▶ A variable for each node/arc image,  $\perp$  for deleted nodes
- ▶ Dual model for surjectivity with antecedent variables
- ▶ Search on antecedents first, then on direct variables

SAT model characteristics:

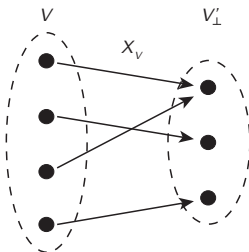
- ▶ Flattened function with order representation (quadratic)
- ▶ Surjection with transversal clauses and redundant clauses

# CP model for deciding SEPI

Input :  $G = (V, A)$ ,  $G' = (V', A')$ . Output :  $\text{yes}(\mu : G \rightarrow G')/\text{no}$ .

## ► Morphism variables

- $\mathbf{X}_v = \mu(v)$  for  $v \in V$ , with  $D(\mathbf{X}_v) = V'_\perp = V' \cup \{\perp\}$ .
- $\mathbf{A}_a = \mu(a)$  for  $a \in A$ , with  $D(\mathbf{A}_a) = A'_\perp = A' \cup (V'^2 - V'^2)$

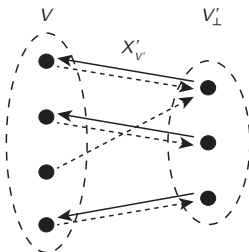


## ► Morphism constraints

- $\forall a \in A, \text{element}(\mathbf{A}_a, [\pi_1(a'_1) \dots \pi_1(a'_{|A'_\perp|})], \mathbf{X}_{\pi_1(a)})$
- $\forall a \in A, \text{element}(\mathbf{A}_a, [\pi_2(a'_1) \dots \pi_2(a'_{|A'_\perp|})], \mathbf{X}_{\pi_2(a)})$

# CP model for deciding SEPI

- ▶ Antecedent variables
  - ▶  $\mathbf{X}'_{v'} \in \mu^{-1}(v')$  for  $v' \in V'$ , with  $D(\mathbf{X}'_{v'}) = V$ .
  - ▶  $\mathbf{A}'_{a'} \in \mu^{-1}(a')$  for  $a' \in A'$ , with  $D(\mathbf{A}'_{a'}) = A$ .
- ▶ Antecedent constraints, with minimality
  - ▶  $\forall v \in V, \forall v' \in V', \mathbf{X}'_{v'} = v \Rightarrow \mathbf{X}_v = v' \wedge \mathbf{X}_v = v' \Rightarrow \mathbf{X}'_{v'} \leq v$
  - ▶  $\forall a \in A, \forall a' \in A', \mathbf{A}'_{a'} = a \Rightarrow \mathbf{A}_a = a' \wedge \mathbf{A}_a = a' \Rightarrow \mathbf{A}'_{a'} \leq a$



- ▶ Redundant global surjection constraints  
 $\text{gsurjection}([\mathbf{X}_{v_1} \dots \mathbf{X}_{v_n}], V'), \text{gsurjection}([\mathbf{A}_{a_1} \dots \mathbf{A}_{a_k}], A')$
- ▶ Strategy: Enumerate  $\mathbf{A}'_{a'}$ , then  $\mathbf{X}'_{x'}$ , then  $\mathbf{X}_x$  and  $\mathbf{A}_a$



# SAT model for deciding SEPI

Input :  $G = (V, A)$ ,  $G' = (V', A')$ . Output :  $\text{yes}(\mu : G \rightarrow G')/\text{no}$ .

► Variables: Partial surjective function

- $\forall (v, v') \in V \times (V' \cup \{\perp\})$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_{v,v'} = 1$  iff  $m(v) = v'$ .
- $\forall (v, v') \in V \times (V' \cup \{\perp\})$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_{v,v'}^< = 1$  iff  $m(v) < v'$ .

► Variables: Morphism

- Non deleted arcs.  $\forall (a, a') \in A \times A'$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_{a,a'} = 1$  iff  $m(a) = a'$ .
- Deleted arcs.  $\forall a \in A$ ,  $\mathbf{is\_dummy}(\mathbf{m}_a) = 1$  iff  $m(a) = \perp$ .

$m$	1	2	$\perp$
1	1	0	0
2	0	1	0
3	1	0	0
4	0	0	1

► Clauses: Partial surjective function

- **Left Totality.**  $\forall v \in V$ ,  $\bigvee_{v' \in V' \cup \{\perp\}} \mathbf{m}_{v,v'}$
- **Functionality.**  $\forall (v, v'_j) \in V \times (V' \cup \{\perp\})$ ,  
 $\mathbf{m}_{v,v'_j} \Rightarrow \mathbf{m}_{v,v'_{j+1}}^<$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_{v,v'_j}^< \Rightarrow \mathbf{m}_{v,v'_{j+1}}^<$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_{v,v'_j}^< \Rightarrow \neg \mathbf{m}_{v,v'_j}$
- **Right Totality.**  $\forall v' \in V'$ ,  $\bigvee_{v \in V} \mathbf{m}_{v,v'}$

## Evaluation on BioModels

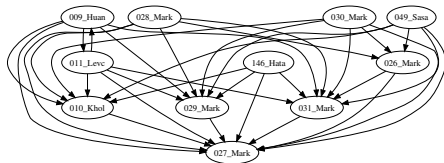
CP model in GNU-Prolog 1.4.4, SAT model with Glucose 2.2.  
Evaluation made on 4 classes from the biomodels.net repository.  
A comparison result is either SEPI found, no SEPI, or timeout.

Family	Pairs	SEPI			No SEPI			Timeout(30s)		
		CP	SAT		CP	SAT		CP	SAT	
ca_oscil	110	38	38	38	72	72	72	0	0	0
circ	110	16	33	33	59	70	70	35	<b>7</b>	7
mapk	110	37	37	41	59	62	62	14	11	<b>7</b>
cell_cycle	72	9	8	10	42	49	49	21	15	<b>13</b>

Between different clusters, only 9% of SEPI detections mostly from some small to large models.

Work to do: search **small frequent SEPI motifs** in BioModels!  
(open problem for protein networks)

# SEPI Partial Order



$(\mathcal{G}, \leq_{SEPI})$  is a partial order.

Let  $G_{\downarrow} = \{H \mid H \leq_{SEPI} G\}$ ,  $G_{\uparrow} = \{H \mid G \leq_{SEPI} H\}$ .

A **maximal element** of  $G_{\downarrow} \cap G'_{\downarrow}$  captures **common structure** of  $G$  and  $G'$ , by removing a minimal amount of specific structure.

Their set is written  $G \sqcap G'$ , we call them **SEPI “intersections”**.

A **minimal element** of  $G_{\uparrow} \cap G'_{\uparrow}$  captures **specific structure** of  $G$  and  $G'$ , by sharing of maximal amount of common structure.

Their set is written  $G \sqcup G'$ , we call them **SEPI “unions”**.

# Properties of SEPI union, intersection

$(\mathcal{G}, \leq_{SEPI})$  is not a lattice.

## Theorem (“Intersections” properties)

*No greatest element:*  $\exists G, G', |G \sqcap G'| \geq 1$ .

*Maximals can have  $\neq$  sizes:*  $\exists G, G', \exists I, I' \in G \sqcap G', |I| \neq |I'|$ .

*Size bound:*  $\forall I \in G \sqcap G', |I| \leq \min(|G|, |G'|)$ .

## Theorem (“Unions” properties)

*No smallest element:*  $\exists G, G', |G \sqcup G'| \geq 1$ .

*Minimals can have  $\neq$  sizes:*  $\exists G, G', \exists U, U' \in G \sqcup G', |U| \neq |U'|$ .

*Size bound:*  $\forall U \in G \sqcup G', |U| \leq (|G| + 1) \cdot (|G'| + 1)$ .

$(\mathcal{G}, \leq_{SEPI})$  is not a well-quasi order (infinite SEPI-antichains).

Fundamental difference with graph minors (e.g. cannot be used to detect planarity by reduction to specific graphs)

# SEPI Distance

Consider  $\mathcal{G}$  with one-step merge/delete transitions  $\rightarrow_{md}$ .

The walks in  $(\mathcal{G}, \rightarrow_{md})$  define a natural distance:

## Definition

Let  $d_{SEPI}(G, G')$  be the length of a shortest walk from  $G$  to  $G'$ .

## Theorem

*There is always a shortest walk of the form  $G \rightarrow_{md}^* I \leftarrow_{md}^* G'$ , with  $I \in G \sqcap G'$ .*

## Corollary

$\forall I \in G \sqcap G'$  of maximal size,  $d_{SEPI}(G, G') = |G| - |I| + |G'| - |I|$

These results are not true for  $G \sqcup G'$ .

# Prototypes

A CP model (in GNU-Prolog) has been attempted for SEPI intersection, answers for very few instances.

SAT models have been evaluated for SEPI intersection and union, answers for 25% of the instances.

How hell to get rid of those **too many SEPIs** ?

# Don't Ignore the Kinetics !

*"Impossible n'est pas français" (proverbe français)*

Michaelis-Menten Reduction by Tropical Equilibration:

- ▶ Let  $x_1 = [S]$ ,  $x_2 = [ES]$ ,  $x_3 = [E]$ ,  $x_4 = [P]$ , we have
$$\begin{aligned}x_1' &= -k_1 x_1 x_3 + k_{-1} x_2 & x_2 + x_3 &= e_0 \\x_2' &= k_1 x_1 x_3 - (k_{-1} + k_2) x_2 & x_1 + x_2 + x_4 &= s_0 \\x_3' &= -k_1 x_1 x_3 + (k_{-1} + k_2) x_2 \\x_4' &= k_2 x_2.\end{aligned}$$
- ▶ **Rescaling**,  $x_i = \bar{x}_i \epsilon^{a_i}$ ,
$$k_1 = \bar{k}_1 \epsilon^{\gamma_1}, k_{-1} = \bar{k}_{-1} \epsilon^{\gamma_{-1}}, e_0 = \bar{e}_0 \epsilon^{\gamma_e}, s_0 = \bar{s}_0 \epsilon^{\gamma_s}.$$
- ▶ **Tropical equilibration equations over  $(\min, +)$  semiring :**
$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_1 + a_1 + a_3 &= \gamma_{-1} + a_2 & \min(a_2, a_3) &= \gamma_e \\ \gamma_1 + a_1 + a_3 &= \min(\gamma_{-1}, \gamma_2) + a_2 & \min(a_1, a_2, a_4) &= \gamma_s \\ \gamma_1 + a_1 + a_3 &= \gamma_2 + a_2\end{aligned}$$

The solutions over the integers provide reductions that generalize QSSA and QE reductions.

# Tropical Equilibration Algorithm?

- ▶ **Inputs:**

- ▶ Biochemical reaction system with mass action kinetics,
- ▶ small  $\epsilon$ ,
- ▶ conservation laws (can be computed as Petri net Place-invariant by a CSP [Soliman 2012]).



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## ► Output:

- Rescaling of the variables s.t.
  - the dominating positive and negative term in each ODE equilibrate (are of the same degree in  $\epsilon$ ),
  - the conservation laws hold.

# Tropical Equilibration as a Constraint Satisfaction Problem

- **Variables:**  $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  (for  $x_i = \epsilon^{a_i} \bar{x}_i$ )

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<sup>7</sup>S. Soliman, F F, O. Radulescu. A constraint solving approach to model reduction by tropical equilibration. Algorithms for Molecular Biology, 9(24), 2014

# Tropical Equilibration as a Constraint Satisfaction Problem

► **Variables:**  $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  (for  $x_i = \epsilon^{a_i} \bar{x}_i$ )

► **Constraints:**

For each species

$\min(\text{PositiveMonomialDegrees}, M)$

$\min(\text{NegativeMonomialDegrees}, M)$

For each conservation law with  $K = \text{round}(\log(c_i) / \log(\epsilon))$ .

$\min(\text{ConservationLawDegrees}, K)$

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- ▶ **Search:** Domain bisection with iterative domain doubling from  $[-2, 2]$  (i.e. in  $[10^{-2}, 10^2]$ ) to  $[-128, 128]$ .

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Use of a solver handling  $\mathbb{Z}$  like SWI-Prolog c1pfd library<sup>7</sup>.

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## Reified Cardinality Constraint on Minimum

The minimum value must be reached only once (steady state) but at least twice

**Constraint**  $\min(L, M, N)$  true if M is smaller than each element of L and equal to N elements of that list.

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**Domain filtering** between  $L$ ,  $M$  and  $N$  by reified constraints:

$\text{min}([], -, 0).$

$\text{min}([H | T], M, C) :-$

$M < H, B \iff M = H, C = B + CC,$

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$\text{min}(M, L) :- C \geq 1, \text{min}(M, L, C).$

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Constraint propagation could be further improved using minimum and min\_n **global constraints** [Beldiceanu et al 2005]



## Results on [Biomodels.net](https://biomodels.net)

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$$\epsilon = 0.1$$

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no	32	17.812/1/194	0.099/0.000/1.934

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18 of 23 models with equilibrations appear to have an infinite number of equilibrations (e.g. linear relations between variables)

Model	# equilibrations	Total time (s)
BIOMD0000000002	36	109
BIOMD0000000122	45	291
BIOMD0000000156	7	0.008
BIOMD0000000229	7	0.7
BIOMD0000000413	29	3.3

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